THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A separate DPEP Bureau was created in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) to primarily deal with the Centrally Sponsored and externally aided scheme of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) in 1994. The DPEP Bureau serves to appraise, finance and supervise the State and District plans according to the prescribed procedures and DPEP Guidelines, to assist the General Council and the Project Board of the DPEP Mission which has been set up in the Ministry .for the implementation of the programme in a mission mode, to release funds to the State Implementation Societies and seek reimbursements from the external funding agencies, to ensure compliance of the financial agreements reached with the various multilateral/ bilateral funding agencies to look after the supervision, monitoring and evaluation aspects of the project, overall coordination with the State Governments, State Implementation Societies and to arrange technical/professional support for the programme.

» NCERT and NIEPA are autonomous bodies, which serve as national apex institutions and their services are utilised for academic and technical support for
the programme implementation as and when required. DPEP Bureau is part of the Central Government's structure.

Overseas Fellowships

1126. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) the total number of overseas fellowships offered by his Ministry during the last five years and the number of total applications received by the Ministry from candidates from the N.E. region for such fellowships;

(b) the number of successful candidates from the N.E. region during the period; and

(c) the total number of applications received by the Ministry for travel grant to attend seminars/conferences abroad from candidates of the N.E. region and actual number of candidates provided with such grant?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The total number of overseas fellowships/scholarships awarded by the Ministry during the last five years is as under:—

1993-94 — 1?4
1994-95 — 108
1995-96 — 111
1996-97 — 101
1997-98 — 83

There is no system of maintaining and retaining the applications received in response to advertisements issued by the Ministry for a period beyond one year. Selections are made by duly constituted Selection Committees on the basis of merit, and not on the basis of region. Hence no region-wise records are maintained.

(c) Ministry is not operating any scheme under which travel grant is provided to attend seminars/conferences abroad.

Guidelines for releasing grants/aids for playground / stadium

1127. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be
pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines adopted by Government of India for releasing grants/aids for playground / stadium etc. in the different States of the country;

(b) if so, what are the state-wise details for the last three years; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to release the funds to the remaining States which have not got any grants during this period?